

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 54

By Miller J

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Dr. W. David Sullins, Jr.
for receiving the 2002 Lifetime Achievement
Award from Southern College of Optometry.

WHEREAS, It is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves in their chosen professions and as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, One such noteworthy person is Dr. W. David Sullins, Jr., of Athens, President of Sullins Family Eye Care Clinics PC of Athens, Etowah and Madisonville, who was recently named by Southern College of Optometry as its 2002 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient during the annual Fall Homecoming and Continuing Education Weekend at the SCO campus in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, The Lifetime Achievement Award honors alumni who have demonstrated exemplary leadership skills and made outstanding contributions to the profession of optometry and/or to Southern College of Optometry; David Sullins and his father, W. David Sullins, Sr., who was likewise honored in 1996, are the first father and son to have receive this prestigious award; and

WHEREAS, A 1965 SCO graduate, Dr. Sullins is joined in practice by his sons David William Sullins III and Stuart Andrew Sullins, as well as his daughter-in-law Christa Harrison Sullins; he also serves as a board member of TLC Laser Eye Centers, Inc.; and

WHEREAS, As a member of the Medical Service Corps of the United States Navy Reserve, David Sullins advanced rapidly, retiring in 1995 as a Rear Admiral; he is the first optometrist in any service to be selected for Flag Officer and the first Reserve Medical Service Corps Officer to be selected for Rear Admiral; in 1997, the Armed Forces Optometric Society, of which he is a charter member, presented him with their highest honor, the Orion Award; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sullins served as the Tennessee Optometric Association's President in 1997; he was recognized in 1980 as the organization's Optometrist of the Year and was named Optometrist of the Decade in 1992. He served as President of the East Tennessee Optometric Society in 1972, founded the Hiwassee Optometric Society in 1976, and in 1980 was recognized as Optometrist of the South by the Southern Council of Optometrists, Inc; and

WHEREAS, David Sullins is one of ten SCO graduates to have served as President of the American Optometric Association, and is a past chairman of the AOA's Council on Optometric Education; in 1997, he received the AOA's Distinguished Service Award; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Sullins is a Fellow of the American Academy of Optometry, and was the Academy's 2000 recipient of the Carel Koch Medal for Inter-disciplinary Activities; this year he was selected for induction into the National Optometry Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, David Sullins epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, This General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Dr. David Sullins for his dedication to excellence in his chosen profession and for his service to the citizens of the state of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Dr. W. David Sullins, Jr. upon receiving the 2002 Southern College of Optometry's Lifetime Achievement Award, and salute his lifetime of professional excellence and achievement. We extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.